United Nations S/2010/399

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 20 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith attached a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Gabon in March 2010 (see annex). The document was prepared under the responsibility of Ambassador Issoze-Ngondet, following consultation with other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alfred **Moungara Moutsotsi**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

10-46391 (E) 110810

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Gabon (March 2010)

Under the presidency of Gabon, in March 2010, the Security Council considered international and regional issues and one thematic issue. It held 22 official meetings, 1 informal meeting on 22 March, on the future of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), and 1 closed meeting with countries contributing troops to that Mission.

The Council adopted five resolutions (on Afghanistan, Somalia, MINURCAT, and the election of judges to the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) and one presidential statement (following the thematic debate of 19 March) and issued statements to the press (on Guinea-Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire).

I. Regional issues

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Council met on 5 and 18 March to consider the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, more especially, the future of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

The Council was informed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, of the Congolese authorities' decision that MONUC should begin its "gradual disengagement" as from the end of June 2010 until 2011. Under these circumstances, the Council will send a mission to that country to undertake consultations with the Congolese authorities on the issue.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 March, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacekeeping Office in that country (UNIOGBIS) (S/2010/106), introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS, Joseph Mutaboba.

During the meeting, the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Alfredo L. Cabral, and the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Maria Luiza R. Viotti, also took the floor.

The Council took note of political and social developments in the past few months and welcomed the fiscal and administrative reforms initiated by the Government. The Council encouraged the Government of Guinea-Bissau to step up its efforts to combat drug trafficking. Lastly, it invited the international community, including States in the subregion, to continue to support the action of the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

After consultations, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press, in which they welcomed the progress made by the Government of Guinea-Bissau on its stabilization and reform agenda and the launching by the National Assembly of a process for reconciliation and dialogue. The members stressed the critical importance of the President, Government, political leaders, armed forces and people of Guinea-Bissau continuing to meet their responsibilities to work towards national reconciliation, maintain stability and constitutional order, and respect the rule of law.

The members of the Council also reaffirmed that security sector reform remained critical to peace and development in Guinea-Bissau and expressed their support for the efforts undertaken in particular by the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the European Union, and underlined the need for UNIOGBIS, in collaboration with all relevant partners, to continue to coordinate international assistance in this area.

Finally, the members of the Council welcomed the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission and encouraged it to assist the Government of Guinea-Bissau in mobilizing the support and resources needed to consolidate peace and security, as well as promote sustainable development in accordance with the national priorities elaborated in the Peacebuilding Strategic Framework for Guinea-Bissau.

Chad/Central African Republic

The Council met on 5, 12 and 22 March to discuss the future of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad following the indication by the Government of Chad that it preferred not to renew the Mission's mandate.

On 12 March, the Council adopted resolution 1913 (2010), extending the mandate of MINURCAT until 15 May 2010 to facilitate further discussion between the United Nations and the Government of Chad. The Council expressed concern that the withdrawal of MINURCAT was premature and could diminish the security situation of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as increase the difficulty of providing humanitarian services.

Liberia

The Council met on 10 March to consider the situation in Liberia and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ellen Margrethe Loj.

The Council welcomed the development of the process of national reconciliation and encouraged the Liberian authorities to continue economic reforms. The Council also welcomed the assistance given by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the Government in preparing the electoral process and strengthening security. Lastly, the Council took note of the wish expressed by the Government for the gradual reduction of UNMIL by 2011 and for Liberia to be eligible for membership in the Peacebuilding Commission.

Sudan

On 11 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation in the Sudan on the eve of the national elections scheduled from 11 to 13 April 2010.

Despite the progress made in recent weeks, particularly in voter registration, the security situation remained no less fragile and many challenges still needed to be addressed, including:

- Voter registration of displaced persons (some 2.5 million persons) living in camps. Only 10 per cent of them were registered as voters.
- Boycotting of the electoral process by certain rebel groups.
- Abrogation of certain national laws, such as laws on the state of emergency, the press or national security, which impede the full exercise of public freedoms and campaign activities.

The Council, while supporting the full implementation of the various peace agreements in Darfur, in particular the Framework Agreement, signed at Doha on 23 February 2010, between the Government and the Movement for Justice and Equity, reaffirmed its firm support for the Joint African Union-United Nations Mediator, Djibril Bassolé.

Somalia

The Chairman of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea and Permanent Representative of Mexico, Claude Heller, gave his regular 120-day briefing to the members of the Council in closed consultations on 16 March. In his briefing, he referred to the report to the Committee of the Monitoring Group on Somalia (S/2010/91), which had noted a number of irregularities, particularly in regard to the diversion of food aid.

On 19 March, the Council adopted resolution 1916 (2010), by which it extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004), and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Monitoring Group for a period of 12 months.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Council met on 17 March to consider the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Choi Young-Jin, and the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Ilahiri A. Djédjé, briefed the Council in turn on the political situation in that country.

In his briefing, the Special Representative said that the political impasse that had started in Côte d'Ivoire early in January 2010, in the wake of misunderstandings surrounding the electoral list, had delayed the preparation of the elections. He regretted the delay, as the list established in November 2009 had been considered reliable.

Ambassador Djédjé said that the crisis in February had been caused by the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission fraudulently registering more than 429,000 people. Priority had to be given to compiling a reliable electoral list in order to organize clean and credible elections.

The Council expressed its concern about the political and social crisis that had occurred on 12 February 2010, following President Gbagbo's dissolution of the

Government and of the Independent Electoral Commission. The Council also expressed concern about the repeated postponements of elections. It invited the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to set a precise date for the holding of the elections.

After consultations, members of the Council issued a statement to the press in which they expressed their concern at the continuing delays in the electoral process since January 2010. They urged the Ivorian stakeholders to revive that process without delay and to remain within the framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and of the previous peace agreements endorsed by the Security Council.

Sierra Leone

At a meeting of the Council on 22 March, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2010/135) was introduced by his Executive Representative, Michael von der Schulenburg. He spoke about youth unemployment, illicit drug trafficking, corruption and the 2012 presidential, legislative and local elections.

The Council welcomed the measures taken by the Government with the assistance of international partners to reduce youth unemployment and combat drug trafficking, cross-border crime, illegal fishing and piracy. It referred lastly to the holding of the presidential, legislative and local elections in 2012 and stressed the need for a prior dialogue between the various parties.

Asia

Islamic Republic of Iran

On 4 March, the Council heard a briefing given by the Permanent Representative of Japan, Yukio Takasu, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) on the implementation of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He reported to the Council information that the Committee had received from a State Member of the United Nations concerning the delivery of material intended for use in the nuclear power plant at Bushehr, Islamic Republic of Iran, and the unfreezing of funds for the payment of contracts between the Islamic Republic of Iran and a third State.

Following the briefing, some Council members condemned those violations and invited the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and to increase its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to dispel doubts as to the purpose of its nuclear programme.

Afghanistan

At a meeting of the Council on 18 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan (S/2010/127).

The Under-Secretary-General said that the consensus that had arisen a year before on the need to transform the relationship between Afghanistan and its international partners through a transfer of responsibilities to the Afghans and a supporting role for the international community had emerged clearly at the London Conference on Afghanistan. He hoped that the international community would take

concrete steps to allow Afghans to be in charge of the fate of their country. Referring to the parliamentary elections to be held in Afghanistan in September, the Under-Secretary-General said that they could be another milestone in highlighting the primacy of the constitutional imperative in leading Afghanistan's future. In terms of the economy, he said that assistance efforts must be coordinated.

The Council welcomed the consensus that had been reached following the London Conference of 28 January 2010. The Council took note of the decision of the Conference to open a new chapter in the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in order to increase the responsibility of the Afghans for managing their security and development.

On 22 March, the Council, by its resolution 1917 (2010), extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan until 23 March 2011.

Situation in Myanmar

On 23 March, the Council held informal consultations on the political situation in Myanmar.

On that occasion, the Chef de Cabinet in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Vijay Nambiar, speaking in his capacity as Special Representative a.i. of the Secretary-General in Myanmar, briefed the Council on recent developments in that country.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 24 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

In his briefing, the Secretary-General informed the Council of the Quartet meeting held in Moscow on 19 March and his visit to the Middle East, in particular the statement issued by the Quartet on the following: the need to hold proximity talks; the freezing by Israel of all settlement activity; compliance by the Palestinians with security obligations; lifting the blockade on the Gaza Strip; and its firm support for the Palestinian Authority's programme for the establishment of a Palestinian State.

Members of the Council welcomed the diplomatic efforts made by the Secretary-General and the Quartet to facilitate the relaunching of the Israel-Palestinian peace process. Members of the Council expressed their concern at the continued impasse and tensions between Israel and Palestine and called on Israel to freeze all settlement activity, considering that it was an obstacle to the resumption of peace talks.

Members of the Council reiterated their call on the two parties to adhere to their commitment and to discharge their obligations in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the road map, and invited them to make every effort to resume the peace negotiations as soon as possible.

Lebanon

On 12 March the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams, briefed the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) in consultations of the whole. The Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, also briefed the Council on the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Council members expressed strong support for the important role that UNIFIL continues to play in contributing to peace and stability in southern Lebanon, underlined their concern over all violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and agreed that all parties should fulfil their obligations under that resolution.

II. Thematic issues

Impact of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on peace and security in Central Africa

On 19 March, the Council held an open debate on the impact of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on peace and security in Central Africa.

The purpose of the debate was to take into account developments in illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the world, and particularly in the Central Africa subregion, and to reflect on innovative measures aimed at more effectively combating and eliminating that phenomenon.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/6), in which it recalled the humanitarian, economic and social consequences of the illicit, manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation for the security of populations, the persistence of conflicts, outbreaks of gender-based violence and the recruitment of child soldiers. The illicit trafficking in small arms is a serious threat to peace, stability and sustainable development. In the statement the Council also acknowledged the right of States to ensure their defence and security while stressing the vital importance of effective regulations and controls of the transparent trade in small arms and light weapons in order to prevent their illegal diversion and re-export. Lastly, the Council emphasized the importance of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in Mexico in June 2010.

Some 40 speakers took part in the debate, including the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Asha-Rose Migiro, the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, Louis Sylvain-Goma, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa.

Election of judges

Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice

At its meeting on 18 March, the Council adopted resolution 1914 (2010), in which it decided that the election to fill the vacancy left by Judge Shi Jiuyong would

take place on 29 June 2010 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

On 18 March, the Council adopted its resolution 1915 (2010), by which it authorized a temporary increase in the total number of ad litem judges to 13 and decided that the number should return to a maximum of 12 by 30 June 2010, or upon completion of the *Popović* case if sooner.